In the Claims

Claims 1-19, 56-58, and 62 are pending in the application with claims 1 and 8 amended herein and claims 52, 60, and 61 cancelled herein.

1. (currently amended) A method of forming a dielectric layer comprising:

providing a substrate comprising a silicon-containing surface;

forming a first metal-containing ~~dielectric~~ layer ~~consisting of metal oxide~~ over the surface, all the metal of the first ~~dielectric~~ layer consisting of at least one element selected from Group IVB of the periodic table;

forming a second metal-containing ~~dielectric~~ layer ~~consisting of metal oxide~~ on and in contact with the first metal-containing ~~dielectric~~ layer, all the metal of the second ~~dielectric~~ layer consisting of at least one element selected from Group IIIB of the periodic table; [[and]]

exposing the first layer and the second layer to an oxygen comprising atmosphere and heating the first layer and the second layer to a temperature effective to form a first metal-containing dielectric layer consisting of metal oxide and a second metal-containing dielectric layer consisting of metal oxide; and

including the first and second metal-containing dielectric layers in an integrated circuit device.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metal of the first metal-containing dielectric layer consists of hafnium.

17
3. (previously presented) A method of forming a dielectric layer comprising:

providing a substrate comprising a silicon-containing surface;

forming a layer of silicon dioxide overlying at least one portion of the surface;

forming a metal layer over the layer of silicon dioxide;

heating the metal layer and layer of silicon dioxide to a temperature of from about 200°C to less than 400°C and combining metal of the metal layer with oxygen of the silicon dioxide layer to form a metal oxide dielectric material comprised by a first metal-containing dielectric layer over the surface, all the metal of the first dielectric layer consisting of at least one element selected from Group IVB of the periodic table; and

forming a second metal-containing dielectric layer on and in contact with the first metal-containing dielectric layer, all the metal of the second dielectric layer consisting of at least one element selected from Group IIIB of the periodic table.

18
4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the metal layer comprises hafnium.

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5. (original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the combining comprises providing conditions effective for the hafnium of the metal layer to chemically reduce the silicon dioxide layer.

3
~~8.~~ (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, where the metal of the second metal-containing dielectric layer consists of one element selected from Group IIIB of the periodic table.

4
~~7.~~ (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, where the metal of the second metal-containing dielectric layer consists of lanthanum.

5
~~8.~~ (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first metal-containing layer is a hafnium-containing layer and the second metal-containing layer is a lanthanum-containing layer ~~where the forming of the first metal-containing dielectric layer and the forming of second metal-containing dielectric layer comprise:~~

~~forming a hafnium-containing layer;~~

~~forming a lanthanum-containing layer over the hafnium-containing layer; and~~

~~exposing the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer to an oxygen-comprising atmosphere and heating the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer to a temperature effective to form a hafnium-containing dielectric layer and a lanthanum-containing dielectric layer~~.

6
~~8.~~ (original) The method of Claim 5, where forming the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer comprises physical vapor deposition.

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10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, where the exposing comprises ion bombardment of the first hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer using an ion bombardment energy of about 10 electron volts (eV) or less.

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11. (original) The method of Claim 10 where the heating comprises heating to a temperature from about 200°C to about 400 C during the ion bombardment.

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12. (original) The method of Claim 8, where the exposing comprises positioning the substrate within a reaction chamber and exposing the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer to oxygen radicals within the reaction chamber.

10 5

13. (original) The method of Claim 8, where:

the forming the hafnium-containing dielectric layer comprises depositing hafnium to a thickness less than or equal to about 5 nanometer (nm); and

the forming the lanthanum-containing dielectric layer comprises depositing lanthanum to a thickness less than or equal to about 5 nm.

11 10

14. (original) The method of Claim 13 comprising a ratio of the hafnium thickness to the lanthanum thickness of from about 1 to 3 to about 1 to 4.

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12 ~~15.~~ (original) The method of Claim 5 ~~8~~, where;

the forming the hafnium-containing dielectric layer comprises forming a layer containing hafnium to a thickness of about 1 nm;

the forming the lanthanum-containing dielectric layer comprises forming a layer containing lanthanum to a thickness no greater than about 5 nm; and

wherein a ratio of thicknesses of the hafnium-containing layer to the lanthanum-containing layer is from about 1 to 3 to about 1 to 4.

13 ~~16.~~ (original) The method of Claim 1, where the forming of the first and second metal-containing dielectric layers comprises physical vapor deposition.

14 ~~17.~~ (original) The method of Claim 13 ~~16~~, where physical vapor deposition comprises electron beam evaporation.

15 ~~18.~~ (original) The method of Claim 1, where forming the first metal-containing dielectric layer and the second metal-containing dielectric layer comprises forming the layers to have respective thicknesses having a ratio of from about 4:1 to about 1:4.

16 ~~19.~~ (original) The method of Claim 1, where the first metal-containing dielectric layer consists of hafnium oxide and the second metal-containing dielectric layer consists of lanthanum oxide.

Claims 20-51 (cancelled).

52. (cancelled).

Claims 53-55 (cancelled)

21 ~~56.~~ (previously presented) A method of forming a dielectric layer comprising:

providing a substrate comprising a silicon-containing surface;

forming a layer of silicon dioxide overlying at least one portion of the surface;

forming a hafnium-containing layer over the layer of silicon dioxide;

combining hafnium of the hafnium-containing layer with oxygen of the silicon dioxide layer to form a hafnium oxide over the surface;

forming a lanthanum-containing layer over the hafnium-containing layer; and

exposing the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer to an oxygen comprising atmosphere by ion bombardment using an energy of about 10 electron volts (eV) or less, and heating the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer to a temperature effective to form a hafnium-containing dielectric layer and a lanthanum-containing dielectric layer.

22 ~~57.~~ (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 ~~56~~ where the heating comprises heating to a temperature from about 200 C to about 400 C during the ion bombardment.

23 ~~58.~~ (previously presented) A method of forming a dielectric layer comprising:

providing a substrate comprising a silicon-containing surface;

forming a layer of silicon dioxide overlying at least one portion of the surface;

forming a hafnium-containing layer over the layer of silicon dioxide;

combining hafnium of the hafnium-containing layer with oxygen of the silicon dioxide layer to form a hafnium oxide over the surface;

forming a lanthanum-containing layer over the hafnium-containing layer; and

positioning the substrate within a reaction chamber and exposing the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer to oxygen radicals within the reaction chamber and heating the hafnium-containing layer and the lanthanum-containing layer to a temperature effective to form a hafnium-containing dielectric layer and a lanthanum-containing dielectric layer.

Claim 59 (cancelled).

60. (cancelled).

61. (cancelled).

20 ~~62.~~ (previously presented) The method of claim 17 ~~3~~ wherein the second dielectric layer consists of metal oxide.